

15 April 1977

NOTE TO: Director of Performance Evaluation
and Improvement

VIA : Chief, Human Resources Division

INFO : Chief, Production Assessment and
Improvement Division

SUBJECT: Community Analytical Resources on
Sub-Saharan Africa

1. The paper prepared by PAID as to the adequacy of Community analytical resources for the production of intelligence concerning Sub-Saharan Africa is a fine companion piece to the Resource Package prepared by the OPEI Collector Task Force.

2. As I read this paper there comes to mind [REDACTED] comment that Sub-Saharan Africa is increasing in importance to the U.S. while Latin America and the Far East are commanding less top level interest. He argued for a modest increase in the intelligence priority assigned to Sub-Saharan countries with a corresponding decrease in intelligence priority for Latin America and the Far East. If what he says about the latter two areas is true it should be reflected in measurably fewer requirements for intelligence products. I wonder if there is material here for a planned adjustment of analytical targetting.

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Survey of Analytical Resources of the Intelligence Community on Sub-Saharan Africa

Background

In October 1976, the DCI approved, with NFIB concurrence, the Interagency Intelligence Memorandum: National Intelligence Requirements on Sub-Saharan Africa for FY-77. At that time, concern was raised about the Community-wide allocation of analytical resources devoted to this area of the world. There already had been an increased demand for intelligence analysis in Africa without a corresponding increase in the number of African analysts. There was concern that increased intelligence collection on Africa would compound the problem.

The Intelligence Community Staff has undertaken research in several areas which will help put the manpower problem on Africa in perspective. Detailed collection requirements are being pulled together. Concurrently, interviews with Washington policy-level officials are being held by NIO/Africa) and Ambassador Little (IC Staff). This survey is a major step in determining the adequacy of the intelligence priorities on Sub-Saharan Africa and highlighting deficiencies which can be corrected by the allocation of additional resources.

Analytical Resources

The IC Staff review of analytical resources indicates that there are analysts or equivalent man-year analysts presently assigned to Sub-Saharan Africa by Intelligence Community organizations. Not all of these designated positions are filled at this time. Collection manpower resources are not included in these totals. For the most part, however, the figures do include analysts assigned to the processing at and work done at Table 1 records numbers of analysts and equivalent analysts assigned to Sub-Saharan African analysis and reporting. Details are provided in the Tab.

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TABLE 1

Analysts Assigned to Sub-Saharan Africa:
Processing and Reporting

Community
Component

Full-time Analysts/
Equivalent Analysts*

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Our review of analysis on Sub-Saharan Africa finds that the work load on analysts is in direct proportion of the requirements for finished intelligence levied upon them, rather than on the amount of information collected. Indeed, even those organizations responsible for the processing of raw intelligence information have indicated that they feel the pinch of limited manpower resources more from the requirements of the analytical shops than from increased amounts of [REDACTED] While it is true that more of an individual's time would be taken up by analyzing additional raw data, the impact of this increase is generally less significant than that of answering additional requests for finished or processed intelligence on Sub-Saharan Africa.

*An Equivalent Analyst is the estimated full-time input of several part-time analysts.

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No specific judgments are made as to the adequacy of the resources of individual Community elements to meet the requirements for intelligence levied upon them. Such determinations can be made only after the Community has a better understanding of the type and amount of intelligence the new Administration desires and the priority it is willing to assign to African affairs. It is anticipated that this survey of the analytic pool available on Sub-Saharan Africa, when combined with the collection and production strategy studies and policy-level interviews now underway, will provide a firm base from which decisions on the allocation of both collection and analytical resources can be made.

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Allocation of Analytic and Processing Resources to Sub-Saharan Africa

The following figures represent either the number of analysts working the Sub-Saharan problem on a full-time basis or the number of "equivalent" analysts, i.e., the aggregate of several people who work Sub-Saharan Africa on a part-time basis. (Clerical personnel are not included in the numbers.) One "equivalent" analyst corresponds roughly to one man-year of effort.

The total numbers presented per organization rarely portray the actual level of effort at any given time. Because the numbers are, for the most part, "authorized" levels, some positions may not be filled now or for several months. And, like most intelligence officers, full- and part-time analysts on Sub-Saharan Africa are subject to military duties, training, rotational assignments, and other endeavors which cut down on the total time spent on intelligence analysis.

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The Office of Research and Analysis for Africa is responsible for political and economic analysis on Sub-Saharan Africa.



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FILE : Sub-Saharan Africa

NOTES:

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